

THE FIRST SERMON

Delivered in the New Westminster Church
Last Sunday Morning by the Rev. Geo.
A. Pauli.

Chosen as first words to come from this new
pulpit: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of
Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation
to every one that believeth."—Rom. 1:16.

It takes no great courage and no great
grace to make this assertion under such
circumstances and among such scenes
as these. When the Apostles stood as
the leaders of "a sect that was every-
where spoken against," and proclaimed
a Gospel that was a stumbling-block and
foolishness, it did require courage
and grace not to be ashamed of it. But
when the despised sect has become the
mightiest power in the world, numbering
its adherents by hundreds of millions;
when beautiful and costly churches at-
test the hold which the Gospel has on
people's hearts; it would be arrant folly
to be ashamed of it. For 1,800 years
the Gospel of Christ has been proving
its power, winning its way, going from
strength to strength. The Church of
God is to-day the symbol of victorious
might. It has outlived the day of small
things, cast off its swaddling-bands, and
taken the commanding place in civiliza-
tion. See where the Apostles went forth
a little band, creeping from shore to
shore, imprisoned, stoned and perse-
cuted at first; but how the greatest em-
pires and thrones went down before
them and disappeared, while the Gospel
marched on conquering and to conquer,
until to-day it controls the world. Look
at the agencies of the Church: the
pulpit, the only form of public speech
that lasts and wears, year in and year
out; the religious press; the Christian
college and school; the Sunday-school.
Look at the hosts of bright-faced young
people who rally around the banner of
the cross in the Y. M. C. A.'s and Y. W.
C. A.'s, in societies of C. E., in circles
and in bands, in temperance leagues
and White Cross legions. Look at the
world-wide operations of the Church;
its missionary societies doing work
throughout the two hemispheres; the
Bible in 250 languages; the billions of
money expended in benevolence; the
millions of members who are devoted
heart and soul to the cause; and the
still larger army who are keeping step
with the Church. Ashamed of the
Gospel? In the name of common sense
and reason, why should we be ashamed
of it? The greater fear is that those
who have not its spirit will trade in its
name, and that Christian lands will
glory in the profession rather than the
possession.

No, it takes no courage nor grace to
say I am not ashamed of the Gospel of
Christ. I use the words this morning
to remind us of what must ever be our
strength; and to bring something fam-
iliar and something dear into this new
place of worship. I felt that we should
need some such thing to make us feel
"at home" here. As when we move
into a new house, and it seems strange
and cold to us, until we hang the old
familiar pictures on the walls, and bring
in the old possessions dearest to our
hearts; when all at once the house be-
comes the home—so have I brought
hither "the old, old story of Jesus and
His love." Amid all that is new here,
we have no new Gospel. The old is not
worn out nor exhausted. It is ever
fresh and ever young. We gather here
to listen to the same themes that have
held us together for years, and been the
source of the constant growth and in-
crease of our church. The most un-
grateful action, the most foolish action,
the most disastrous action, we could
commit, would be the leaving behind of
the Gospel of Christ. It is the very
power of God unto salvation. So we
plant the cross of Christ here first of all.
We set up the banner of His love. We
are not ashamed of the Gospel. And
whatever else may be new, we cannot
feel strange where these familiar things
are in our sight and hearing.

I think moreover we can thank God
and congratulate ourselves upon the
churchly character of this building.
I do not say and do mean its
high-churchly character. There is, such
a thing as high-church Presbyterianism,
marked by great formality and stiff-
ness; but that is not found here. What
I do mean is something like this, that no
one would ever mistake this building
for anything else than a church. Both
as to its exterior and interior there is a
harmony between its architecture and
the purpose to which it will be dedicated.
I felt, on entering this building, long
before it was completed, and even amid
the din of hammer and saw, that it was
a place apart from the world. Now, that
characteristic is still more evident.
There is a serenity, a peacefulness, a
concord of all parts which marks this as
a place well fitted for the worship of God.
This is something that no dedication
can give to a building. You may hire a
hall and dedicate it every Sunday morn-
ing for a year, but its secular character
will cling to it still. And there are
some churches that I have seen which,
by reason of gingerbread decoration, or
some one prominent feature standing
out before all others, have never seemed
like churches. Of course the spiritual
worshiper can rise above these things
and in course of time forget them. As
our Saviour said: "The true worshipper
can worship the Father everywhere." But
it certainly is a cause for rejoicing when
a building in itself offers aids to worship,
when its very form and arrangement

and harmony seem to suggest God to the
mind; so that on entering the building
the spirit is calmed and put in a wor-
shipful attitude, saying to itself: "This
is the house of God."

If you share this feeling with me (and
I have heard others speak of it), you will
understand exactly what I mean by
saying that this is a churchly church.

We may congratulate ourselves the
more on this, because we have departed
somewhat from the ordinary form of
church buildings. It was something of
an experiment, although undertaken, I
believe, prayerfully and under the guid-
ance of God. But it was not the old-
time church, of right angles and straight
lines. The children of this world are
proverbially wiser in their generation
than the children of light; and so it has
come to pass that the world has for
years sat in theatres and heard the
slightest whisper of an actor on the
stage; while the children of light have
sat in long, narrow, rectangular buildings
and strained their ears to hear the
Gospel, and the preacher in the pulpit
has grown red in the face with the ex-
ertion of making himself heard through
the longest distance of the building. The
laws of acoustics, it is true, are not yet
fully understood; but there are certain
laws which are the very axioms of the
science. Put into the briefest forms
they are such as these: (1.) Sound goes
up rather than down. This law says
therefore bring down the pulpit from
the wall. Lower the preacher to the
level of the congregation, or even be-
low them by rising seats. If his dig-
nity suffers, his comfort in letting his
voice rise instead of forcing it down
will amply compensate him. (2.) Sound
travels in a circle from the speaker's
mouth, just as waves in water proceed
from the place where a stone is dropped.
This law says therefore: "Don't make
your speaker stand in a long narrow
box; put his audience around him and
make the building circular or semi-cir-
cular." (3.) Sight assists hearing. This
law says therefore: "Sweep the pews
around the preacher, as well as let them
rise toward the rear. If the pews are
in straight lines and the floor is level,
every man's head and every woman's
bonnet is directly in front of the person
behind; so that the speaker can be seen
only by bending the neck or twisting
the body; and the Apostle says that
"bodily exercise profiteth little." (4.)
Sound tries to fill all the open space in
a building, whether it be large or small,
high or low, bristling with angles and
projections or smooth and concave;
abundant in recesses and alcoves or en-
tirely free from them. Sound will go
where it is wanted, unless it is compelled
to go where it is wanted. In a building
where a choral service is the chief thing,
there is good reason for the high
groined ceiling and the lofty arches and
the side chapels of a great cathedral;
but where oral speech is the chief thing,
this law says away with recesses and
angles and pillars. Let the voice be
restrained to the place and space which
holds the audience.

These simple laws have not always
been observed in church buildings,
but that obedience to law, whether
natural or spiritual, is a good thing, is
shown by a church building which con-
forms to them and is churchly still.
As to the circles and the curves of the
outside architecture, who will say that,
even if they are contrary to tradition,
they are contrary to the grace and
beauty of the Gospel? Our forefathers
held a very strict and unbending theo-
logy, and succeeded in making their
religion very gloomy and austere. It
showed itself in their straight, severe,
and ugly churches. But Christianity has
now more relation to men's lives, is
more human, more graceful, and more
beautiful. So may churches be more
flowing in architecture, and may point
the way to heaven more attractively by
an airy symmetry of tower.

One other matter pertaining to this
new building I wish to mention. Last
Sabbath we were bemoaning the absence
of all associations with this church.
We feared it would seem strange and
cold on that account. Leaving the old
building seemed like leaving behind those
who once joined in worship here, but
whose voices will never be heard here,
because they are worshipping in the
temple above. But such fears were
groundless. The memorials that have
been placed in this building still link us
to the past. Given by the tender love
of those who were near and dear to the
departed, a love that death cannot
quench, these memorials seem to bring to
all of us the hallowed presence of those
glorified souls. We can all imagine what
an interest they would have taken in
this church, and how helpful they would
have been, had they seen this day. And
even yet they are helping us, they are
speaking to us, they are adding to the
beauty and richness of our church.
Though absent in the body and present
with the Lord, their work in the church
is continued and will be felt as long
as we worship here. In the softened light
that comes through the windows, we are
reminded of the activity and labor of a
devoted pastor, "not here, but risen,"
because his Lord and Master died and
rose again; of the consecrated time and
matured helpfulness of two mothers in
Israel; and of the pure and radiant
characters of the two young girls whom
the Lord took so early to Himself; while
the tones of the grand organ remind us
of a third who also so early in life joined

(Continued on Third Page)



Rev. William Hollinshead
Of Sparta, N. J., voluntarily says:

"To Whom it May Concern:

"Unasked I deem it my duty to a suffering
humanity whose bodies and souls I would
have healthy, to tell them of the value of
Hood's Sarsaparilla. While living in Ohio
one of my children was greatly

Afflicted With Boils

having 30 on her limbs, and being unable to
walk. I had heard of Hood's Sarsaparilla,
and bought a bottle, half of which cured en-
tirely. Two years after, another child was
afflicted as badly. I used the other half
bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla with like re-
sults. About four years after, the child first
afflicted was again tormented like Job, and I
bought a bottle (on Sunday at that) and
again a cure. I gave some of the medicine to
a poor woman and two children; they were
helped as were mine. Through a testimo-
nial sent to C. I. Hood & Co., inquiries came
from all the country, asking if it was a "bona
fide" testimonial, and of course I wrote all
that it was, and have the knowledge of

Scores and Scores

Of persons helped or cured by Hood's Sarsa-
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been corrected in my own family. This is
the only patent medicine I have felt like
praising. I speak not for C. I. Hood, but for
the jobs who are impatient and are tor-
mented beyond endurance. Nothing I know
of will cleanse the blood, stimulate the liver,
or clean the stomach so perfectly as

Hood's Sarsaparilla

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An abstract of the Annual Report made Janu-
ary 1, 1892, to the Board of Control of the State
of New Jersey, and filed in the Department of
the Secretary of State in pursuance of law.

STATEMENT JANUARY 1, 1892.

RESOURCES.
Bonds and mortgages..... \$158,400 00
Real Estate..... 3,000 00
U. S. and other bonds..... 31,984 00
Interest due and accrued..... 4,061 00
Office furniture, etc..... 500 00
Cash in bank and office..... 19,976 07

\$217,999 07

LIABILITIES.
Due depositors (including interest)..... \$200,267 24
Surplus..... 17,731 83

\$217,999 07

Interest is credited to depositors on the first
days of January and July in each year, for the
three and six months then ending. Deposits
made on or before the first business day in Jan-
uary, April, July, and October, bear interest
from the first day of the month. All interest
when credited at once becomes principal and
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DEPOSITS.....270,000

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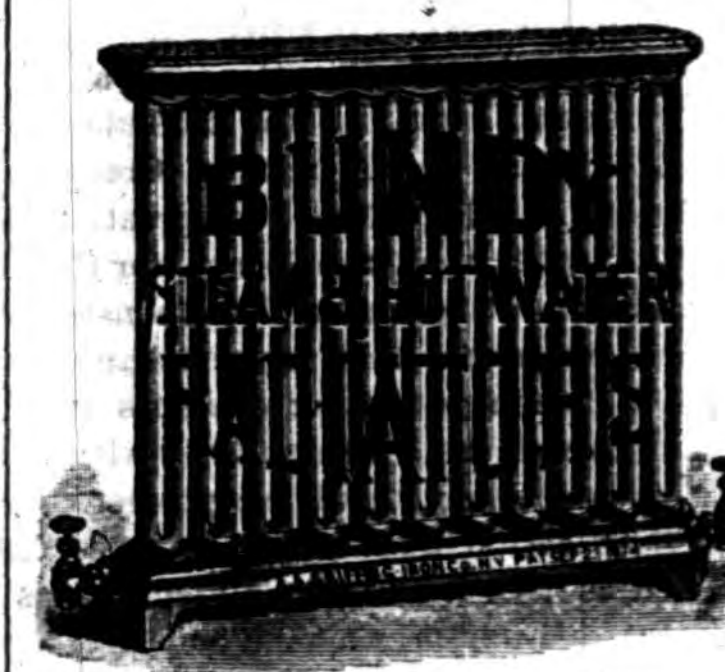
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